

MOTION TO CONVERT DECREE OF LEGAL SEPARATION TO DECREE OF DISSOLUTION

King County Facilitators: Instruction # L-5
RCW 26.09.150

If it has been at least six (6) months since the Decree of Legal Separation was entered, either party may ask the Court to convert the Decree of Legal Separation to a Decree of Dissolution. Advance notice to the other party is generally required.

STEP 1: OBTAIN & COMPLETE THE REQUIRED FORMS

- [Note For Motion Docket, Kent or Seattle](#)
- [Motion to Convert Decree of Legal Separation to Decree of Dissolution of Marriage, WPF DR 08.0100](#)
- [Order on Motion to Convert Decree of Legal Separation to Decree of Dissolution of Marriage, WPF DR 08.0200](#)
- Declaration of Mailing or Delivery, (You may not need this form, See Step 3).

STEP 2: TALK TO AN ATTORNEY, IF POSSIBLE

These instructions are not a substitute for legal advice. The laws and court rules are complex and following these instructions will not guarantee you a favorable result. It is always advisable to talk to a lawyer about your problem before filing your action. If you cannot afford to hire an attorney to represent you, you may be able to pay a lawyer to give you advice and review your paperwork for less cost. Contact the King County Bar Association Lawyer Referral Line for information about limited services representation. If you cannot afford these costs, there are limited free legal services available to low income people. Contact the Facilitators' office for a "Legal Resource List" or the King County Bar Association Lawyer Referral Line for information about resources for low income people. Even if you do not hire a lawyer to represent you throughout the proceeding, a lawyer can look over your paperwork, give you advice on how to present your evidence, and tell you whether this type of action is right for you.

STEP 3: FILE THE NOTE FOR MOTION DOCKET FORM AND HAVE THE OTHER PARTY SERVED

File the original of the *Note For Motion Docket form* with the Clerk's Office at least 14 calendar days prior to your hearing date.

If you and the other party agree to convert your legal separation to a dissolution, you

will not need to serve the other party, but you will need to have the other party sign the **Order** form on the “Approved by:” line.

If you and the other party do not agree to convert your legal separation to a dissolution, or you cannot obtain the other party’s signature on the Order, **you will need to mail or deliver** a copy of each of the completed forms listed above (except the Declaration of Mailing or Delivery), at least 14 calendar days prior to the hearing (if you are mailing the documents add an additional 3 days). You should make a copy of the Declaration of Mailing or Delivery and file the original with the Clerk’s office. Bring a copy with you to your hearing.

STEP 4: ATTEND YOUR HEARING & BRING COMPLETED ORIGINALS

Go to the Ex Parte Department on the day of your hearing.

Bring the following to your hearing:

1. The originals of the completed **Motion** and **Order** forms listed above.
2. Your copy of the **Note for Motion Docket** form (and the **Declaration of Mailing or Delivery**, if you had to serve the other party).

<p>WARNING: These instructions are not a substitute for legal advice. The laws and court rules are complex and following these instructions will <u>not</u> guarantee you a favorable result. It is always advisable to talk to a lawyer about your problem before filing your action. (You may be able to hire a lawyer for a small fee to review your completed forms and talk about your problem but not represent you in court). If you need a lawyer, contact the Family Law Facilitators’ Office for a <i>Legal Resource List</i> or call the King County Bar Association.</p>
